

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

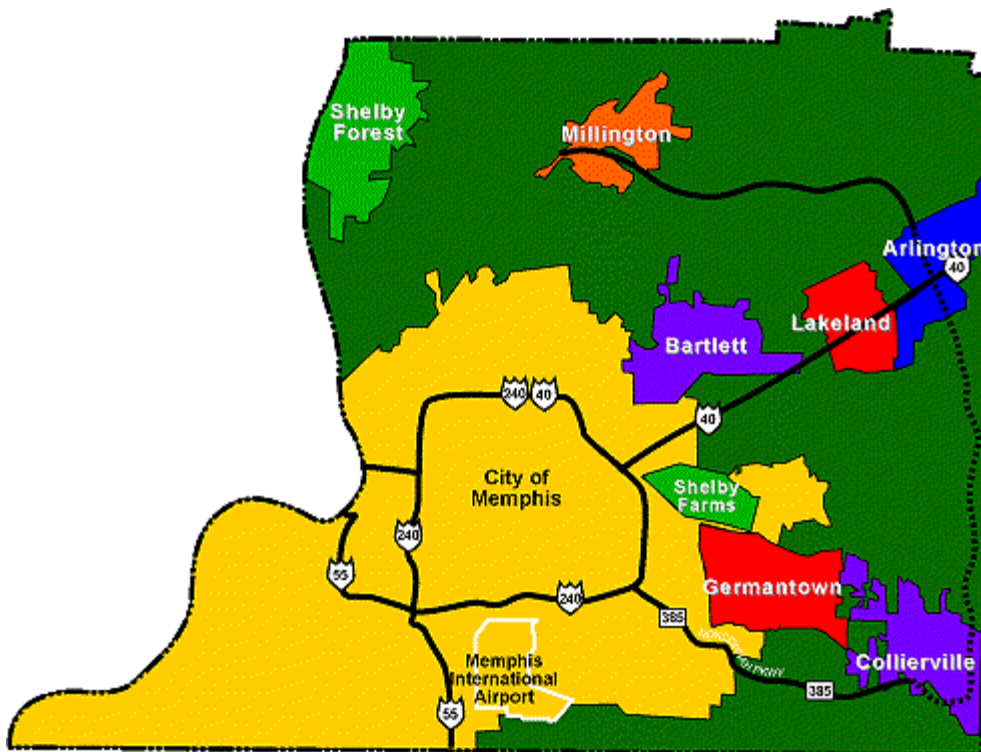
## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Memphis, Tennessee

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#### Profile of Drug Indicators

October 1999



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Memphis**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Memphis Tennessee is located in Shelby County and the following demographics are for Shelby County Tennessee.
- Population: 826,330 (1990 Census), 868,825 (1998 estimate)
- Gender: 47.6% male, 52.4% female
- Race/Ethnicity: 55.0% white, 43.6% black, .9% Asian or Pacific Islander, .9% Hispanic Origin,

### **Politics<sup>2</sup>**

- Mayor: Dr. Willie W. Herenton
- City Council: E.C. Jones, Brent Taylor, Jerome Rubin, Janet Hooks, John Vergos, Joseph Ford, Barbara Holt, Joe Brown, Ricky Peete, Myron Lowery, Pat Vander Schaff, Tom Marshall, John Bobango
- Director Memphis Police Department: W.P. Oldham
- Sheriff of Shelby County: A.C. Gillless

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- The Metro DUI Unit is comprised of law enforcement officers from the Memphis Police Department and the Shelby County Sheriff's Department. This squad responds to calls in both the city and county. All officers assigned to this unit are specially trained in the testing of drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Video cameras were installed to aid in the evidentiary aspect of drunk driving arrests. During 1998, the Metro DUI Unit made 4,676 arrests. Out of those arrests 1,402 involved accidents and 3,753 were as the result of patrol activity.<sup>3</sup>
- In the fall of 1994, the Memphis Police Department became a participant in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program. D.A.R.E., which provides a core curriculum of 17 hour-long weekly lessons, taught to fifth and sixth graders to strengthen their substance abuse prevention skills. Eight officers were trained by the Tennessee Highway Patrol, which manages the D.A.R.E. program statewide. The training consisted of an 80 hour two week session provided at the academy.<sup>4</sup>
- A program to create safe drug- and gang-free schools in Memphis, TN was awarded a \$30,000 grant by the Assisi Foundation in February 1999. The grant to support the "Building a Better Way" program was made under the foundation's education program area and went to the Memphis City Schools.<sup>5</sup>

## Crime<sup>6</sup>

- The number of crimes in Memphis decreased 16% in 1998.

Crimes reported to the Memphis Police Department, 1996-98

{PRIVATE}CRIMES	1996	1997	1998
Homicide	155	139	118
Rape	789	938	722
Robbery	5,970	5,240	4,172
Burglary	16,634	15,471	14,921
Larceny	26,828	25,259	20,899
Auto Theft	14,284	11,457	8,337
Aggravated Assault	5,615	5,520	4,048

Crime Index, Memphis 1996-97

{PRIVATE}CRIME INDEX	
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	
Crime Index 1997	64,668
Crime Index 1996	70,895
Percentage of Change	- 8.78
VIOLENT CRIMES	
Violent Crimes 1997	11,838
Violent Crimes 1996	12,533
Percentage of Change	- 5.55
PROPERTY CRIMES	
Property Crimes 1997	52,178
Property Crimes 1996	57,746
Percentage of Change	-9.64

- The Memphis Police Department (MPD) provides police services to the 619,981 citizens of Memphis in a 310 square-mile area with a total complement of 1,780 officers.

## Sources

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>2</sup> City of Memphis Web site: <http://www.ci.memphis.tn.us/>

<sup>3</sup> City of Memphis Police Department Web site: <http://www.memphispolice.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Joint Together Web site: [www.jointtogether.org](http://www.jointtogether.org)

<sup>6</sup> City of Memphis Police Department Web site: <http://www.memphispolice.org/>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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